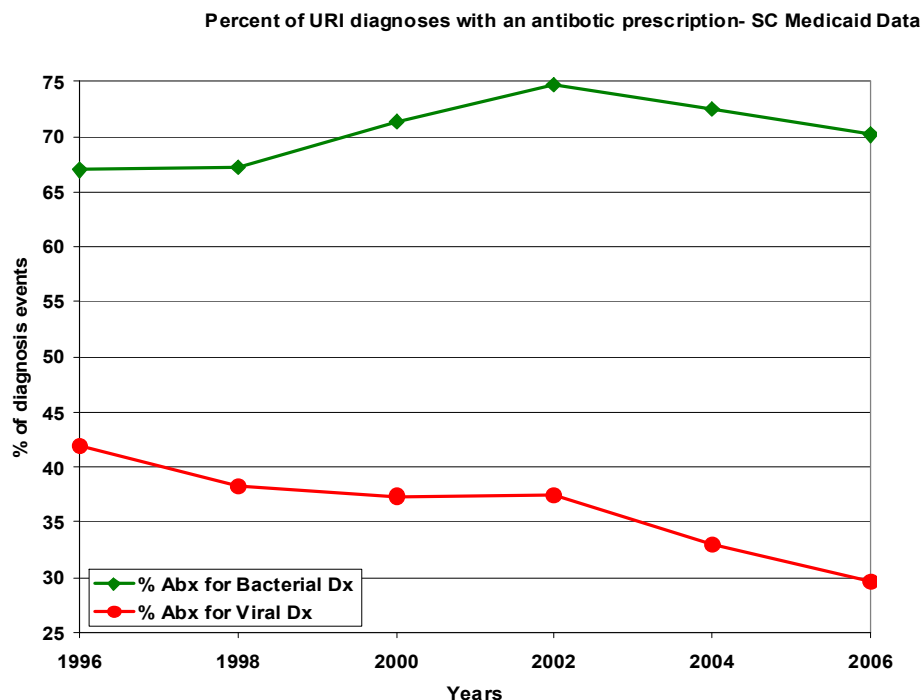


Antibiotic Prescribing Trends for Upper Respiratory Infections (URI): SC Medicaid Data - 1996 through 2006

People often ask if public and healthcare provider education about careful antibiotic use has helped to decrease antibiotic prescribing for viral infections.

The national campaign began in 1995 and the South Carolina campaign began in 1997, with most of the educational activity occurring between 1999 and 2003. This chart shows a decrease in the percent of patients (the red line at the bottom of the chart – labeled % Abx for Viral Dx) that received an antibiotic prescription for the type of upper respiratory infection usually caused by a virus. The green line shows the percent of prescriptions for infections usually caused by bacteria. The infection types in this report were based on the healthcare provider's diagnoses on the billing claim form. To be counted in this report, the antibiotic prescription for the selected condition had to be filled within three days of the diagnosis.

- Upper Respiratory Infections, **usually Bacterial** (green line on the chart)
 - Ear Infection [health care provider finds signs of an acute bacterial infection]
 - Sore throat with positive strep test
 - Sinusitis
- Upper Respiratory Infections, **usually Viral** (red line on the chart)
 - Cold
 - Ear Infection [health care provider finds signs more likely to be a viral infection]
 - Sore throat without positive strep test
 - Cough/bronchitis



Data Source:

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